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FRIENDS OF KIDNAPPED OU GRAD ASK CIA TO INTERVENE
ATHEN, OHIO

Four Ohio University professors are pleading with the CIA to intervene before OU graduate Ray Ronald Hooker, kidnapped this month in Nicaragua, is killed.

Hooker, 42, a 1967 graduate of Ohio University, was reported alive Friday in Costa Rica where he was being held by the Democratic Revolutionary Association, said Hooker's sister Miriam, a press secretary for the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington.

She said a Nicaraguan diplomat told her Eden Pastora, the leader of the CIA-backed rebel force is holding Hooker.

'He knew that by becoming a candidate at this moment, it would be dangerous for his life,' she said.

She said Pastora is demanding, among other things, the release of fellow rebel Jose Robelo as the price for her brother's freedom.

OU associate director of admissions and university examiner Jerry Reese said he called congressmen and talked with Hooker's friends last week.

'We're asking our representatives to contact the CIA and Sens. Barry Goldwater and Patrick Moynihan of the Committee on Intelligence and tell them, 'Look, this man needs to be released.''' said Reese.

Four OU professors who toured Nicaragua last summer as part of a research seminar are asking Athens residents to write the president and other public officials and plead Hooker's case.

The four claim Hooker was kidnapped by 'CIA-sponsored counter-revolutionary forces.'

Hooker obtained a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in guidance and counseling from OU and moved back to his hometown of Bluefields, on the Atlantic coast of Nicaragua, where he was a history professor and vice dean of humanities at the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua.